

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2. (cancelled)

3. (New) A method of forming an optical connector, comprising:

connecting a right angle interface body to a set of one or more optical fibers, the right angle interface body having one or more first optical paths and one or more second optical paths, each of the first optical paths being optically connected to a corresponding second optical path, wherein the first optical paths are disposed in a first plane and the one or more second optical paths are disposed in a second plane, the first and the second planes being substantially at right angles with respect to one another;

embedding the right angle interface body and the one or more optical fibers inside an electro-optical board; and

forming a hole in the electro-optical board to expose a portion of the right angle interface body and thereby permit a set of one or more optical fibers disposed outside the electro-optical board to be optically connected to the first optical paths of the right angle interface body.

4. (New) The method of claim 3 further comprising:

providing a protective covering on the right angle interface body to cover the first optical paths prior to embedding the right angle interface body inside the electro-optical board; and
removing the protective covering from the right angle interface body after forming the hole in the electro-optical board.

5. (New) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of connecting the right angle interface body to a registration plate prior to embedding the right angle interface body.

6. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein the right angle interface body has a plurality of anchor members extending downwardly from a bottom side thereof, and wherein the step of connecting the right angle interface body to the registration plate further comprises inserting the anchor member of the right angle interface body into alignment holes provided in the registration plate.

7. (New) The method of claim 3 further comprising:

securing a female body having a channel formed therethrough to the electro-optical board with the channel of the female body substantially aligned with the first optical paths of the right angle interface body.

8. (New) The method of claim 3 wherein the right angle interface body has a tapered sidewall, and wherein the step of forming a hole in the electro-optical board to expose the right angle interface body further comprises exposing at least a portion of the tapered sidewall of the right angle interface body.

9. (New) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

securing a female body having a channel to the electro-optical board with the female body in registration with the tapered sidewall of the right angle interface body and the channel substantially aligned with the first optical paths of the right angle interface body.

10. (New) The method of claim 3 further comprising:

securing an anchor body about the hole of the electro-optical board;

inserting a female body having a channel through the anchor body and into the hole of the electro-optical board so that the channel of the female body is substantially aligned with the first optical paths of the right angle interface body; and

securing the female body to the anchor body.

11. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the right angle interface body has a tapered sidewall, wherein the step of forming a hole in the electro-optical board to expose an upper surface of the embedded right angle interface body further comprises exposing at least a portion of the tapered sidewall of the right angle interface body, and wherein the step of securing the female body to the anchor body further comprises:

securing the female body to the anchor body with the female body in registration with the tapered sidewall of the right angle interface body.

12. (New) A method of forming an optical connector, comprising:

connecting a right angle interface body to a set of one or more optical fibers, the right angle interface body having one or more first optical paths and one or more second optical paths, each of the first optical paths being optically connected to a corresponding second optical path, wherein the first optical paths are disposed in a first plane and the one or more second optical paths are disposed in a second plane, the first and the second planes being substantially at right angles with respect to one another;

connecting the right angle interface body to a registration plate;

embedding the right angle interface body and the one or more optical fibers inside an electro-optical board;

forming a hole in the electro-optical board to expose a portion of the right angle interface body; and

securing a female body having a channel formed therethrough to the electro-optical board with the channel substantially aligned with the first optical paths of the

right angle interface body to permit a set of one or more optical fibers disposed outside the elector-optical board to be optically connected to the first optical paths of the right angle interface body.

13. (New) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

providing a protective covering on the right angle interface body to cover the first optical paths prior to embedding the right angle interface body inside the electro-optical board; and

removing the protective covering from the right angle interface body after forming the hole in the electro-optical board.

14. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the right angle interface body has a plurality of anchor members extending downwardly from a bottom side thereof, and wherein the step of connecting the right angle interface body to the registration plate further comprises inserting the anchor member of the right angle interface body into alignment holes provided in the registration plate.

15. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the right angle interface body has a tapered sidewall, and wherein the step of forming a hole in the electro-optical board to expose the right angle interface body further comprises exposing at least a portion of the tapered sidewall of the right angle interface body.

16. (New) The method of claim 15 further comprising:

securing the female body to the electro-optical board with the female body in registration with the tapered sidewall of the right angle interface body.

17. (New) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

securing an anchor body about the hole of the electro-optical board;

inserting the female body through the anchor body and into the hole of the electro-optical board; and

securing the female body to the anchor body.